

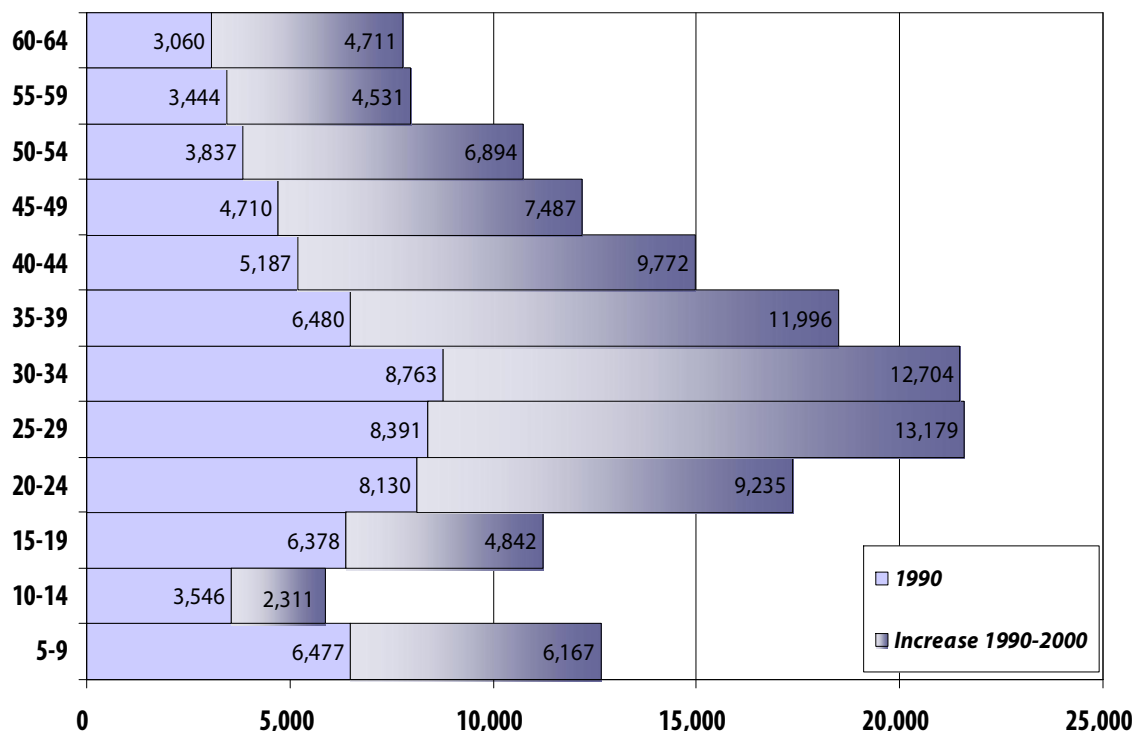
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS IN WASHINGTON

How many Washingtonians speak a language other than English at home?

- Among the population 5 years of age and older, 920,000 (or 16%) speak a language other than English at home.
- More than half of those (53%) speak English “very well”.
- Second to English, Spanish is the most commonly spoken language at home (6.8% overall, or 42% of those who speak another language at home)

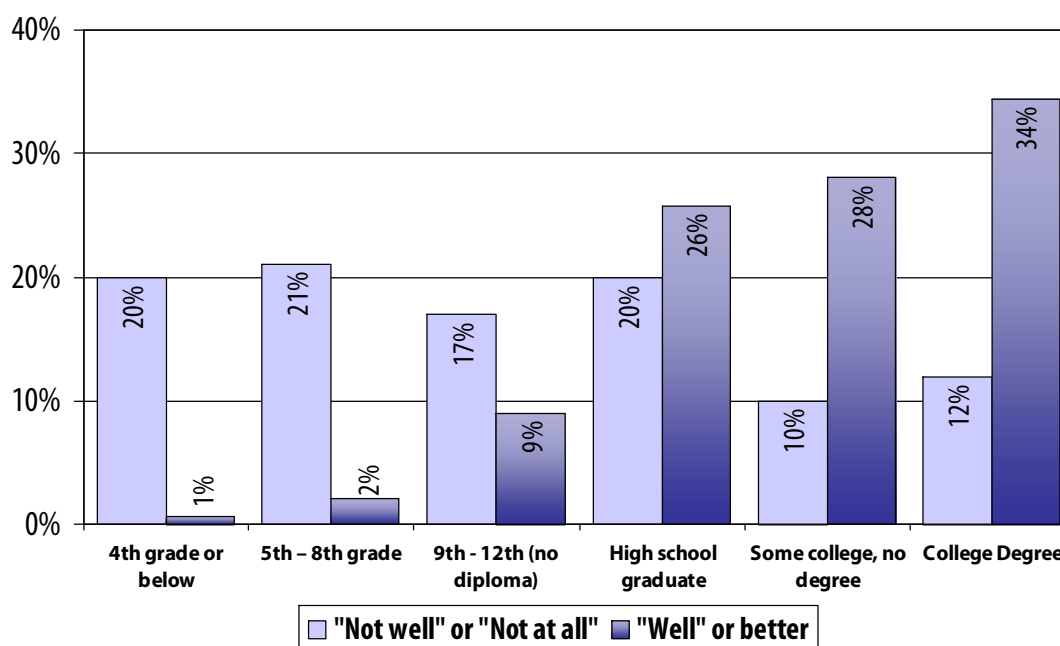
How many Washingtonians speak English “less than well” or “not at all”?

- In 1990, there were approximately 77,000 people (age 5 and older) who spoke English “less than well” or “not at all”.
- By 2000, that number had increased to approximately 180,000.
- The chart below shows that the increase occurred across all age categories. The light bars on the left illustrate the number of people in 1990 who spoke English less than well or not at all. The darker bars show the *increase* between 1990 and 2000. The sum of the two bars represents the total in 2000.



What is the educational attainment for those who speak English “less than well” or “not at all” compared to those who speak English “well”, “very well”, or speak only English?

- Those who speak English “less than well” or “not at all” have lower educational attainment than the rest of the population.
- Forty-one percent have an eighth grade education or lower, compared to only three percent of those who speak English “well” or better.
- Thirty-four percent of those who speak English “well” or better have a college degree, compared to only 12% of those whose English skills are not as advanced.



DEFINITION:

The Census Bureau uses the terms “very well”, “well”, “not well”, or “not at all” and respondents were not instructed on how to interpret the responses for English ability.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2000.